

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (new): A process for producing herbicides from a fungus *Alternaria alteranata* f.sp. *lantanae* deposited as a pure culture as ITCC-4896, comprising culturing the fungus in a liquid broth; subjecting the broth to the step of filtration to separate the broth containing phytotoxins from mycelium; extracting the phytotoxins from said broth to obtain the phytotoxins; and subjecting the phytotoxins to chemical characterization.

Claim 15 (new): The process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the pure fungus is inoculated on a known nutrient and grown for a period of 7 days.

Claim 16 (new): The process as claimed in claim 14, wherein discs of the inoculum comprising the culture are prepared aseptically.

Claim 17 (new): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the inoculum is inoculated into a liquid medium and growth is allowed for a period of 20 to 30 days under static conditions.

Claim 18 (new): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the discs having the inoculum are of 3 to 12 mm.

Claim 19 (new): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the discs having the inoculum are of 5 to 8 mm.

Claim 20 (new): The process as claimed in claim 19, wherein the inoculated broth after growth is subjected to filtration under vacuum to separate the mycelium from cell free filtrate.

Claim 21 (new): The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the pH of the cell free filtrate is adjusted to a pH 2 to 3 and concentrated to 40-60% of original volume under vacuum to produce a concentrated brown viscous mass.

Claim 22 (new): The process as claimed in claim 21, wherein the brown viscous mass is subjected to reported steps of solvent extraction to produce a solvent layer and an oily layer.

Claim 23 (new): The process as claimed in claim 22, wherein the solvent layer containing a first active compound is evaporated under vacuum at a temperature of 30 to 35 °C to produce a yellowish oily residue having phytotoxic activity and subjecting said residue to chemical characterization.

Claim 24 (new): The process as claimed in claim 22, wherein the oily layer is subjected to subsequent extraction by a solvent, such as ethylacetate, to produce another solvent layer and another oily residue.

Claim 25 (new): The process as claimed in claim 24, wherein the solvent layer contains two other active compounds with phytotoxic activity, which are subjected to evaporation at a temperature of 30 to 35°C under vacuum to produce a residue, which is subjected to chemical characterization.

Claim 26 (new): The process as claimed in claim 22, wherein the solvent used in solvent extraction is selected from polar and non-polar solvents.

Claim 27 (new): The process as claimed in claim 22, wherein the solvent used in solvent extraction is chloroform.

Claim 28 (new): The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the mycelium is ground and formulated as a water spray for a weedicide.